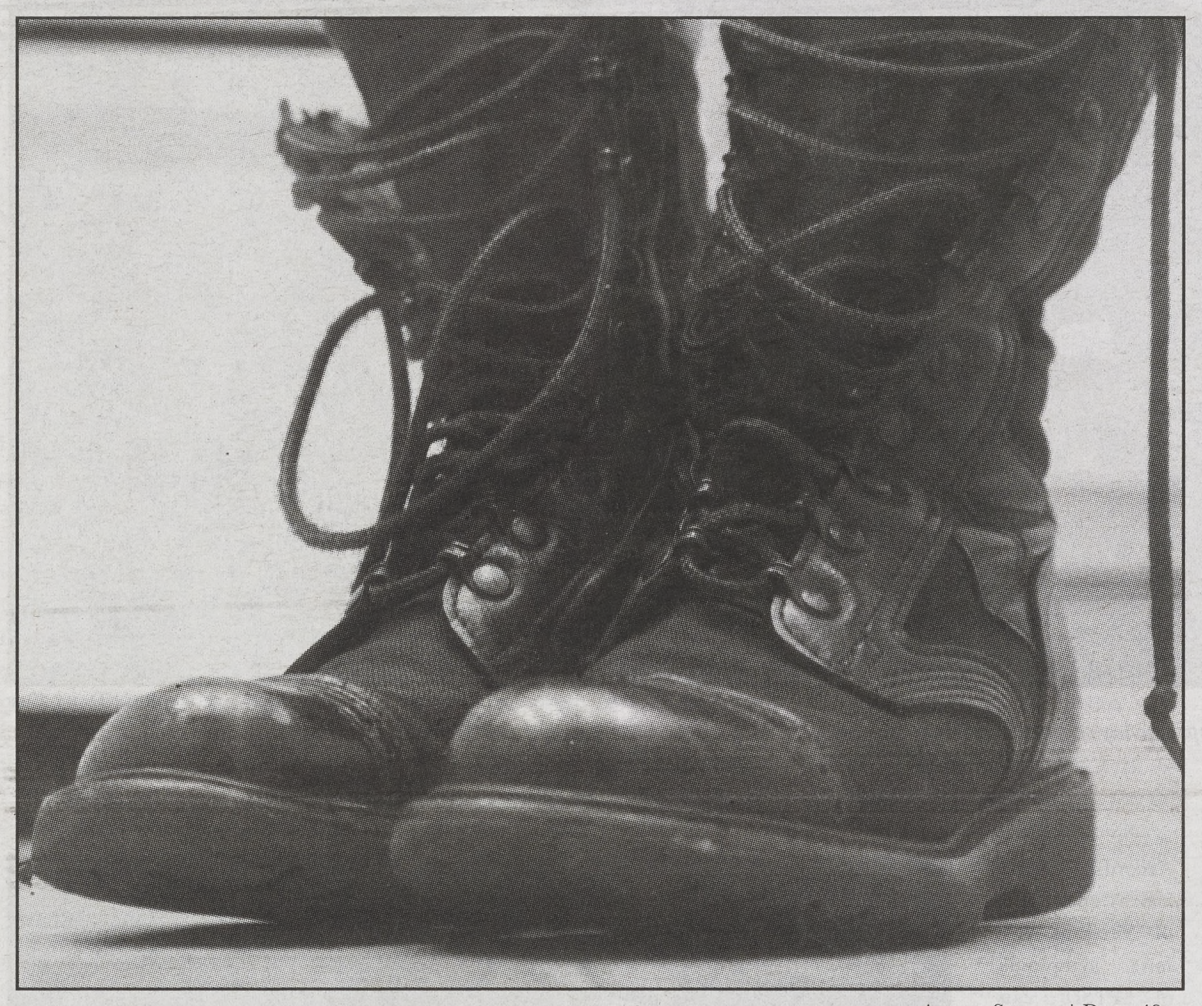
California State University, Long Beach
DAILY 49ER

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH, LIBRARY ARCHIVE

From one war to another



ARIANA SAWYER | DAILY 49ER

Emily displays her Air Force combat boots on the kitchen floor. She wore them in Iraq and Afghanistan and still wears them regularly.

With the largest veteran population in the California, drug addiction as the result of PTSD is a rising problem in L.A. County among Gulf War veterans.

BY ARIANA SAWYER
News Editor

Emily was seeing brown sand. She was back in the war, and the enemy was coming. She found a weapon. She stood up and pinned the enemy to the wall.

Emily's girlfriend still has a mark from where Emily held a knife to her throat in the midst of a flashback. She'd gotten drunk with her girlfriend at their apartment with some friends and gone to her room, saying she would go to bed. When her girlfriend came to the room, Emily was crouched down, talking to herself and looking for a weapon.

After that, her girlfriend hid the knives, and Emily agreed to go get help.

Emily never drank or did drugs until she got out of the military. And although she finished a therapy program to treat post-traumatic stress disorder in November, Emily continues to self-medicate with illicit drugs. She's asked that her name be changed and any identifying information be withheld to protect her from potential job loss and criminal charges.

"What makes me an addict are all my fuckin' problems," she says.

Emily is not someone who invites sympathy or concern. She looks people in the eye, has perfect posture and manages a long stride despite the fact that she is almost always the shortest person in the room. With an infectious grin, a pretty face and a slight frame, few would peg Emily as a Second Gulf War veteran.

About one in 10 veterans seen by Veterans Affairs returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have a problem with substance abuse.

There were over 550,000 Gulf War vets in California with 314,667 in Los Angeles County alone in 2014 — over 3 percent of the population. In fact, the state of California has the largest veteran population in the United States. Using the VA's projection, that would mean about 31,500 veterans are currently struggling with drug addiction, often as the result of PTSD. Since these numbers only represent the people who have self-reported, the actual number is likely to be higher.

Welcome home

When Emily came back to Southern California, the first thing she noticed was how colorful it is in the United States. She saw brightly painted walls, traffic lights, street signs. But back in the desert, everything was brown. After one tour in Afghanistan and two in Iraq, the monotony of color and the fear broke something inside Emily's head.

"You wake up in a dirt hole," she recalls. "For us soldiers, we have to dig a dirt hole so people don't see us in the middle of the desert. We call it a soldier's grave. You wake up, and you're like, 'Oh, I'm alive.'

" ... You wake up fearing for your fucking life."

And that fear never really goes away.

"I need weed to sleep, I need weed to eat. And as for the coke, do not tell my girlfriend because I do it behind her back." She does as much as she can afford, despite working as a nurse's assistant at the Long Beach VA Medical

see **VETS**, page 2

The virtual polls are open

The ASI executive hopefuls agreed on making Cal State Long Beach a safer, more transparent place for everyone at the recent debate.

BY ARIANA SAWYER
News Editor

Starting today, students can vote for student government leaders online by clicking on the link sent to emails registered with Cal State Long Beach.

Wednesday is the last day to vote for Associated Students Inc. candidates, with the virtual polls closing at midnight.

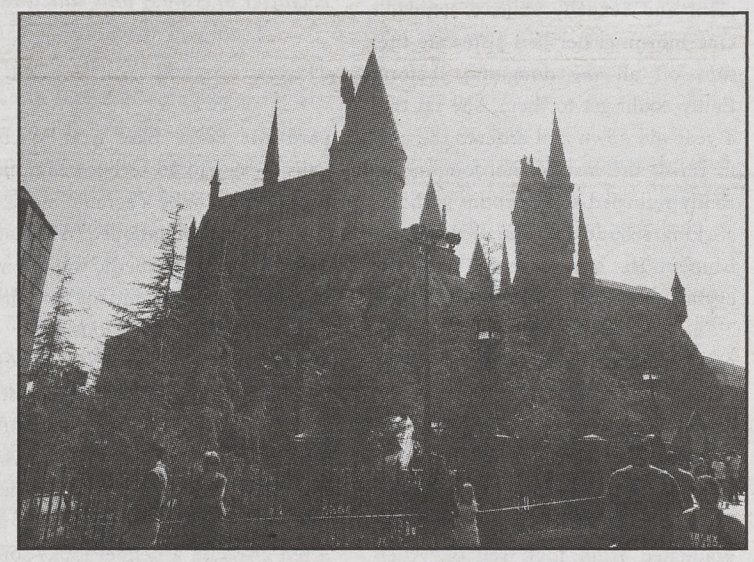
In a debate Thursday for the executive candidates, students in the running called for an increase in administrative transparency and promised to advocate for student safety on the speakers platform at noon.

Daily 49er Editor-in-Chief Greg Diaz and KBEACH reporter Heather Marshall co-moderated the event.

Many of the candidates said they thought students needed to have more say when it comes to fees and decisions normally made by the administration.

"Next year, I want to make sure we work on a variety of issues, the main one being to vote for student voices," said Logan Vournas, vice presidential candidate and current senator at-large. "Because this is our campus,

see **DEBATE**, page 3



MICAYLA VERMEEREN | DAILY 49ER

Hogwarts Castle rises above stores and guests at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios Hollywood.

When lightning strikes

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios Hollywood brings the most magical world to life.

BY MICAYLA VERMEEREN
Opinions Editor

There are two types of people in my life: people who respond quickly and accurately to the question, "What house are you in?" and people I don't have another conversation with.

I know I speak for a huge population of millennials when I say my childhood, adolescence and early adulthood were drastically impacted by the magical otherworld of Harry Potter and his friends. I remember, reading through the series time and time again, trying to imagine just what the Great Hall in Hogwarts Castle or the Three Broomsticks would look like.

When the films started coming out, my curiosity was satiated, but a new desire to walk through the cobbled streets of Hogsmeade and stand in front of the Mirror of Erised sprung up in its place. Luckily, Universal Studios Hollywood took a hint from Universal Studios Orlando, home of the first American Wizarding World of Harry Potter, and brought it to the West Coast.

I was lucky enough to get on the guest list for a preview of the park led by Alan Gilmore, artistic set director

see **POTTER**, page 4

VETS

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Center.

Emily also used to take Ecstasy to complete daily activities such as going to class, but nowadays, she limits it to big raves. It's the only way she feels connected to other people.

"I have a hard time opening up," she says, laughing at herself.

Barefoot and loaded

People join the military for all kinds of reasons — out of a sense of duty, patriotism or adventure; because they plan to use the GI Bill to go to college; or because they just want to shoot guns and blow things up.

Emily joined the military to get out. Besides, it was all she knew.

Born at the Clark Air Base on Luzon, the largest island in the Philippines, Emily was in the military by birth. Her father was an American soldier stationed at the base and her mother was a local Filipina woman.

Emily was two years old when her biological father went to prison and her mother got a second divorce. So her mother married another airman — an 18-year-old Caucasian American — whose assignment moved the family to Osaka, Japan, where Emily grew up.

Emily never got along with her violent and sexually abusive stepdad. One morning, her half-sister ate the tops off all the doughnuts before Emily could get to them. She sat the 4-year-old down and ordered the girl to finish the rest of the doughnuts. Emily returned to her room without sticking around to enforce the punishment. Her stepfather saw the child crying.

"Of course the little shit lies and says that I hit her, and so he is enraged," Emily says. "He comes in my room, picks me up and throws me outside."

Emily ran barefoot to her friend's house where she stayed until she graduated from high school. After being thrown out, she found a job as a dancer.

"The strip clubs are different than here."

Emily says the clubs in Japan are more reserved, don't serve alcohol and the men are more respectful than they are in the States. In most strip clubs, men are not allowed to touch the dancers, they may only look. At 17, Emily was making enough money to support herself, buy a car and treat her friends whenever she wanted.

Her parents did not attempt to reach her.

"If they ever wanted to come see me or find me, then they very well knew how to," Emily says. Her parents knew what high school she went to and with which friend she was staying. The girls' parents worked together on the military base.

"But that never happened, so … " Emily trails off.

So Emily joined the military at the age of 19.

Target practice

Since she chose not to specify a job preference, the Air Force chose for her. Emily was shipped off the Sheppard Air Force Base near Wichita Falls, Texas, to go to boot camp and to learn how to be a combat medic.

After she was stationed in England, the newly minted medic went to war in 2004 as an attachment to Marine and Army convoy missions.

Combat medics aren't supposed to carry a gun. But in Afghanistan, a country where the enemy are often nomadic tribespeople galvanized by a deep hatred for Westerners, few have read the Geneva Convention, and a red cross on a helmet looks something like a bullseye.

Unsurprisingly, Emily got shot right in the head.

The Kevlar in her helmet stopped the bullet from entering her skull.

"My reaction was to defend myself, so I picked up a gun and started firing," Emily says.

Killer?

One of her ex-girlfriends would always say that Emily could have chosen whether to kill, but Emily says that boot camp brainwashes soldiers.

"You follow the order, OK? No matter what the commander tells you, you fucking follow the order. So it doesn't matter, you pull the trigger because you're following orders.

"That's just how the military is.

"When I got out, it was 2008, and that's the first question people would ask me: 'Did you kill someone?' … You don't think I've been through a lot of trauma to have to say, 'Oh yeah, I fucking killed somebody?' "

When she got back to the States, she says she felt shocked and angry. A case of PTSD like Emily's could happen to anyone who's seen combat or experienced sexual abuse. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, symptoms of PTSD can include feeling keyed up, having flashbacks of the event or feeling numb to things a person used to enjoy.

More than two out of 10 veterans with PTSD are addicted to drugs or alcohol, according to the VA, meaning there were about 3,000 reported cases of veterans with both PTSD and drug addiction in L.A. County in 2014.

Dr. Mary Gutierrez, a pharmacy professor for the past 24 years, treated veterans who have psychiatric and substance use drug addiction problems in Long Beach.

"They go to addiction to relieve the psychiatric pain," Gutierrez says.

Often, these veterans don't want help, she says. "While they are in the addiction, they are in such pain that they'd rather keep using than seek treatment."

High functioning

After Emily got out of the military, she couldn't hold down a civilian job, so she decided to go back to school to be a registered nurse. Unfortunately, her GI Bill ran out.

The GI Bill, which pays for 36 months of a full-time college education for military veterans, doesn't usually last until graduation, and if student veterans can't pay for the rest on their own, they may not graduate at all, according to Cal State Long Beach Director of Veterans Services Marshall Thomas.

"The idea behind that legislation was kind of an antiquated notion that we are a four-year institution," Thomas says. More often than not, students need at least six years to graduate.

In the end, Emily came out with a certificate and applied for the nurse's assistant job at the VA where she would be able to be around other veterans. There, people have an understanding with one another. They know what they've been through. She would like to go back to school to finish her RN degree.

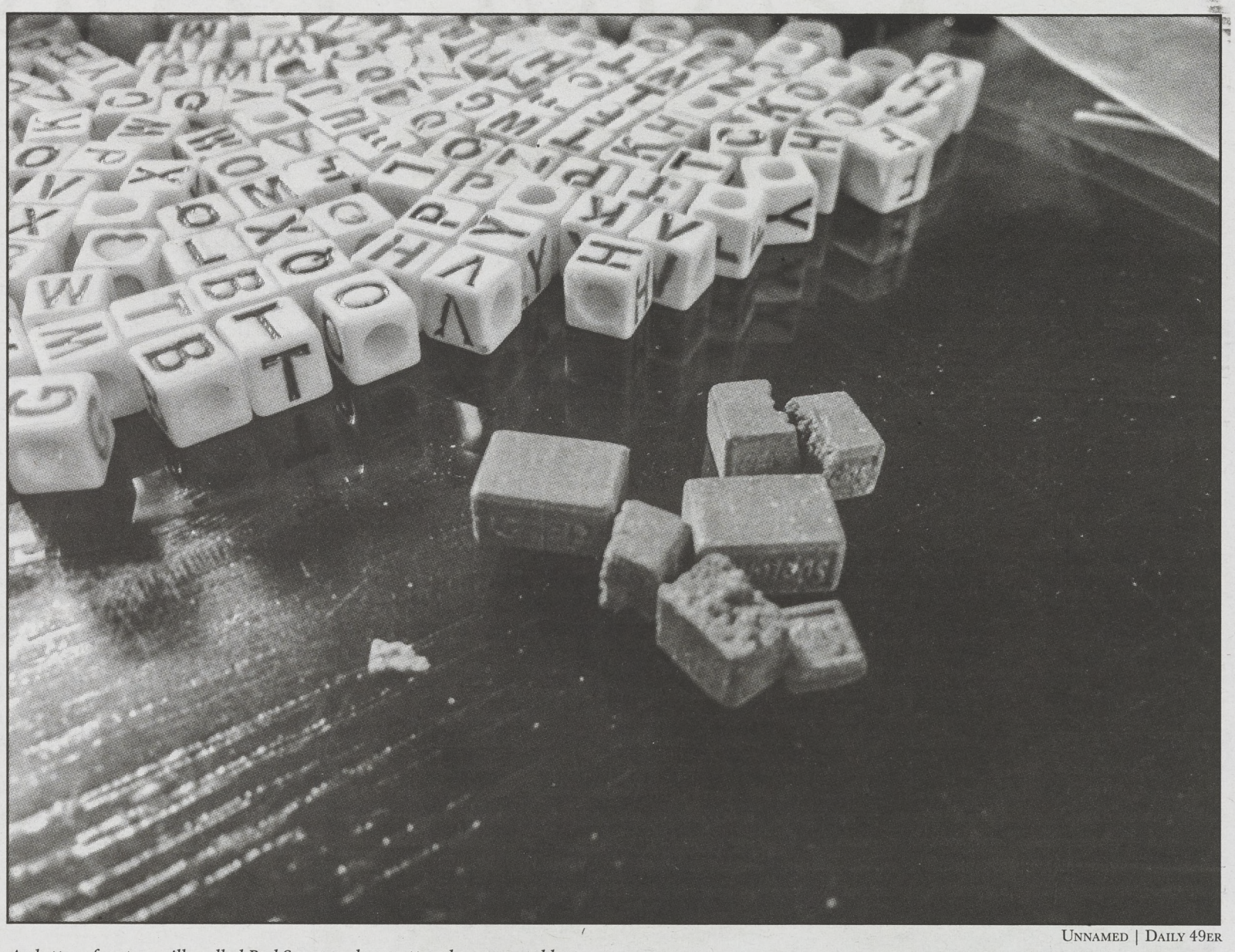
Most days of the week, Emily continues to work at the VA taking care of the Long Beach veteran population, whether it's keeping them company, fetching them popcorn, getting them in the shower or dressing their wounds. She knows she could be drug tested at any time, on any day.

If she doesn't pass the next random drug test, she's well aware she might not make it.

Between war and the VA, "I like to think I saved a lot of people," Emily says.

Is it time to start saving herself?

Emily shrugs at the question. She doesn't have an answer.



Unnamed | Daily 49er

A clutter of ecstasy pills called Red Supreme lay scattered across a table.



Ariana Sawyer | Daily 49er

Emily pulls a dagger out from her collection of knives that are otherwise put up in a cardboard box.



TRANG LE | DAILY 49ER

CSULB's Students in Media host ASI Executive Candidate's forum Thursday in front of the Speaker's Platform.

DEBATE

continued from page 1

and unfortunately, it feels like our voices aren't being heard and the university isn't responding to us — I think — the way they should." Vournas and her running mate, presidential candidate Marvin Flores, cited two years of experience as senators with ASI.

Whether through the food pantry for students struggling to buy groceries that Vournas implemented this year or through a campus safety student oversight committee that ASI presidential candidate Dylan Tom proposed, helping students feel more secure remained the overarching theme throughout the forum for most of the candidates.

The common focus came in the wake of student frustration with the administration for not issuing a timely warning email after a recent incident where a male student displayed a knife in class. Campus officials were also slow to release more specific information about the incident including that the 20-year-old student works for University Police as a Community Service Officer.

"I think that what we're looking for is more transparency, and we don't like it when decisions are made for us," Tom said. "Why are the decisions that affect the student body not being made by the student body? And that's why, when I'm running for president, I want to get the students more involved in making these decisions — these closed meetings where administration is deciding things for us, or the senators are deciding things without consulting the entire student body."

Treasurer hopeful Mariam Balogun said she wanted to close the gap between ASI and students, improving fiscal transparency and student government visibility. Gio Smith, who is also running for treasurer, promised to change the ASI budget information already available online to real dollars instead of percentages of revenue.

"Students don't want to know percentages," Smith said. "[They] want to know actual factual numbers."

ASI presidential candidate Isidro Morales, a fall 2015 transfer student, also talked about student participation, but he focused more on school spirit.

"One of the things I noticed here on campus is the pride factor," Morales said. "You know, we're 49ers, but I don't sense that when I walk onto this campus."

Vice presidential candidate Gabriel Avila challenged his fellow executive candidates to show up to the weekly ASI Board of Control meetings, where fiscal decisions are made.

Questions for the candidates came from CSULB students and the Daily 49er. Student questions were either submitted to the Daily 49er before the debate, on Twitter during the debate or on index cards from the live audience.

In total, 11 executive candidates participated in the event, including Tom, Morales, Marvin Flores, Oscar Acevedo and Robert Espinoza running for president; Vournas, Novy Bowman and Gabriel Avila running for vice president; and Smith, Balogun and Eduardo Vargas running for treasurer.

Though candidates agreed on most issues, the recent anti-abortion display on the free speech lawn sparked the most debate-like exchange among the candidates. When Diaz asked whether the university should limit displays such as the Genocide Awareness Project and the so-called street preachers, both Smith and Morales said they think it is important to continue to allow protesters on campus. Smith said students should think about what the anti-abortion protestors have to say.

Tom said that if the university is willing to allow people on campus "screaming at us," then CSULB should seek out organizations with an opposing viewpoint.

Vournas said that stopping the GAP display, which is put on by an outside organization not affiliated with the university, is a matter of student safety.

Later, Acevedo said he was the only candidate whose number one platform issue was sexual assault, at which point Avila called GAP a form of sexual assault.

"When you see the Genocide Awareness Project and they are attacking women and they're calling them 'whores,' where were you yesterday?" Avila demanded of Acevedo. "So don't come out saying that you have been the only presidential person [running on a sexual assault platform] because I know that other people who are running on this campaign have been present at senate chambers and have worked on legislation to make sexual assault an issue for students."

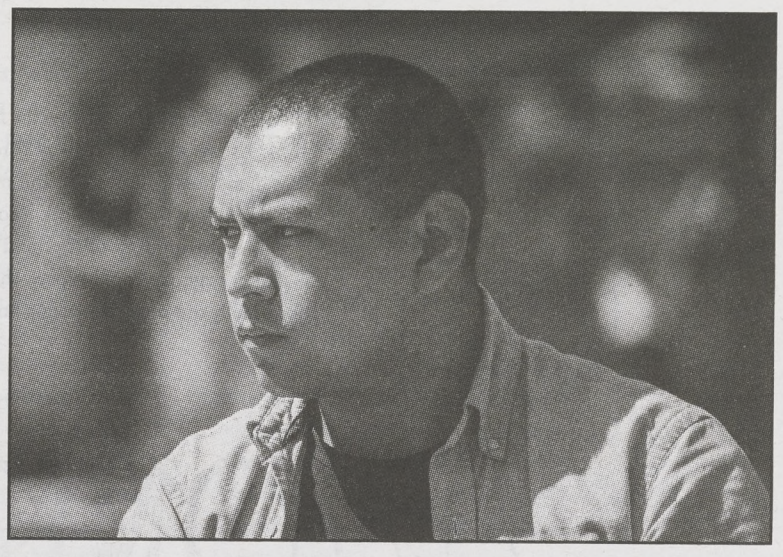
Parking was another major issue, with Flores and Vournas arguing for a cell phone application paired with sensors in parking spots that would notify students of full parking lots and empty spaces. Tom said having displays at the entrance to each lot would be more helpful, as students, faculty and staff would not have to use their cell phones while driving.

Election results will be announced March 24 at 11:30 a.m. in the Senate Chambers of the University Student Union.

Meet the candidates: Oscar Acevedo

ASI presidential candidate encourages safety and transparency.

BY ERIK ÖHRSTRÖM
Staff Writer



JOHNNY ROMERO | DAILY 49ER

ASI presidential candidate Oscar Acevedo takes part in the debate March 17.

Associated Students, Inc. elections are taking place this week at Cal State Long Beach, and presidential candidate Oscar Acevedo is hoping to change ASI into a united body of student advocates.

While working for the national community service organization AmeriCorps at the George Deukmejian courthouse in Long Beach, Acevedo discovered a passion for helping people in need.

"I was part of the JusticeCorps program where I gave free legal advice to community members who otherwise could not afford it," Acevedo said. "I got used to empowering people and letting them know their rights. It is a great feeling to be an advocate for other people."

In high school, Acevedo enjoyed watching a lot of presidential and activist speeches, but the inspiration to get involved in American politics originally came from his mother.

"When I grew up, my mother was a patriot," Acevedo said. "She always taught me the value of giving back to your country. I thought the best way to do that was either by enlisting military, or working with public service, which I ended up doing. That experience ultimately made me decide to become a political science major."

When not working on his campaign, Acevedo likes traveling. Going to leadership conferences at other college campuses is an activity he said he finds particularly interesting.

"I think it gives an advantage to me as a candidate, because I will be able to compare how much other schools have changed," Acevedo said. "I like to get into politics and explore as much as possible."

For his campaign, Acevedo has decided to focus on transparency. He believes there is a bad connection between the student government and its community. Instead of giving students the opportunity to reach out to ASI, he wants ASI to reach out more to the students.

"We have to understand and listen to all the different opinions of the students," said third year criminal justice major and Acevedo supporter Eduardo Marquev. "This does have a lot of impact on the future reference. I think it is important to make students aware that making your voice heard by ASI should be an opportunity for everyone."

Student safety is also an important focus in Acevedo's campaign. He argued that the current student government has not done enough with respect to the increased number of sexual assaults on campus.

"There have been a record number of sexual assaults this year, and those do not include the ones that are not being reported," said second year recreational therapy major and supporter Bridgette Luckay. "I think it is completely alarming how negligent ASI is when it comes to protecting the safety of students.

"Oscar has previous experience from when he worked for the court," Luckay said. "The combination of that with his passion for safety and assurance that students know their legal rights could make a great president."

Reaching out to uninformed students has been a big part of Acevedo's campaign. He said that after talking to hundreds of students, it concerns him that a big part of the student population is not aware of what ASI is.

Since CSULB is so diverse, he said he believes that this kind of disconnection is the reason why some groups of students might not be represented equally in ASI.

"Often you will find elected candidates, executives and even senators that only care about specific groups," Acevedo said. "But we need to cut that out. We need to advocate for all of our students and use our diversity to our advantage by learning from each other. The people that will do what others are afraid to do are the true definition of patriots."

ASI presidential elections began yesterday and the polls are open until tomorrow at midnight via a link sent to students' email address on file with the university.

This article is part of a series on candidates running for ASI executive positions. Past articles can be found online at www.daily49er.com.



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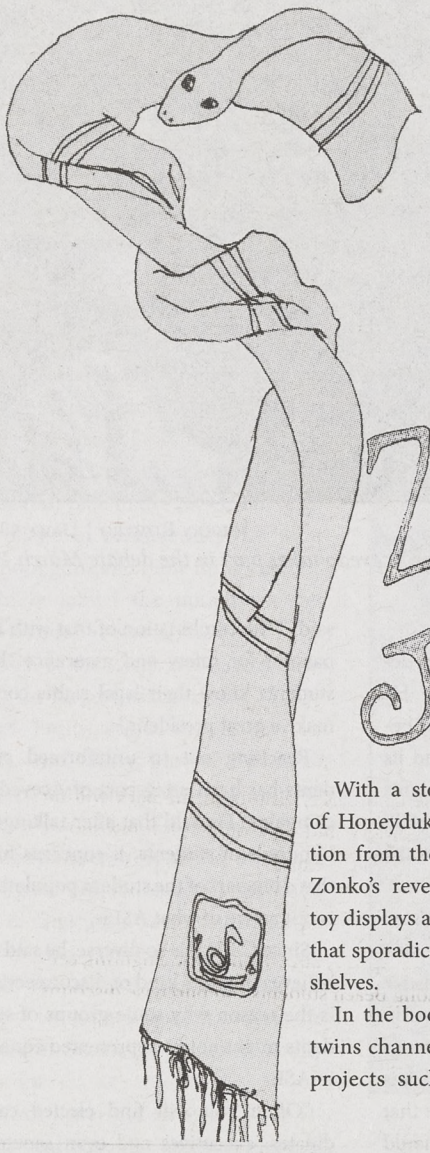
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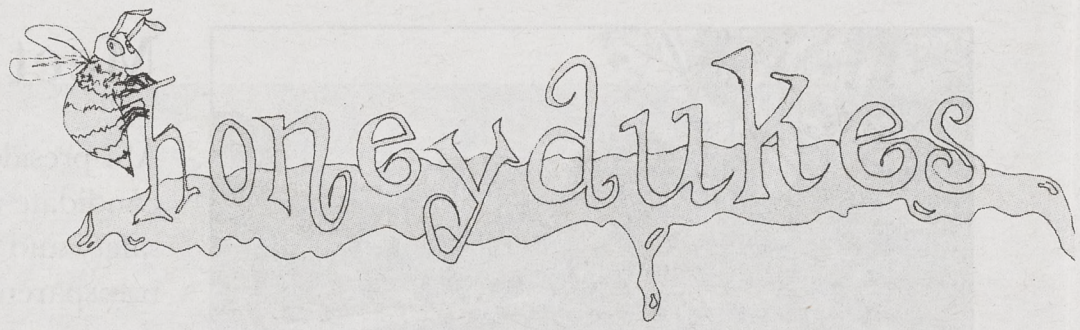
POTTER

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for the park and artistic director for two Harry Potter films. As we worked our way through the Wizarding World, authentic film props and minute details started popping out of the woodwork – sometimes literally.

While the entirety of the land was as aesthetically dialed in as guests could expect, the following five locations really did bring the magic home.



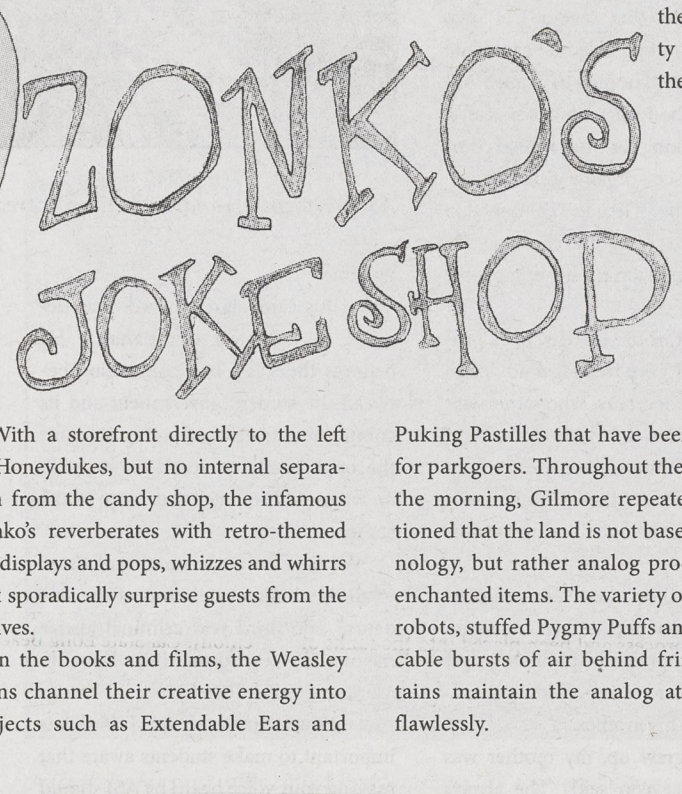
As brightly colored as the wall of Bertie Bott's Every-Flavour Beans that faces shoppers as they walk through the doors, Hogsmeade's signature candy shop gives guests an opportunity to wander through the aisles and pick up some of Harry's favorite treats.

There's an overwhelming amount of product held in the relatively small shop, giving the feeling that the bounty of goods could be picked through by every visitor in the land and still have full inventory at the end of the day.

Gilmore explained, as we dodged guests rounding corners inside, that the layout was designed to be a b difficult to navigate. His ultimate goal was to force gues to adventure through the space and take a bit of time t absorb the crackled shelves, perfectly antiqued displa cases and, of course, candy selection.

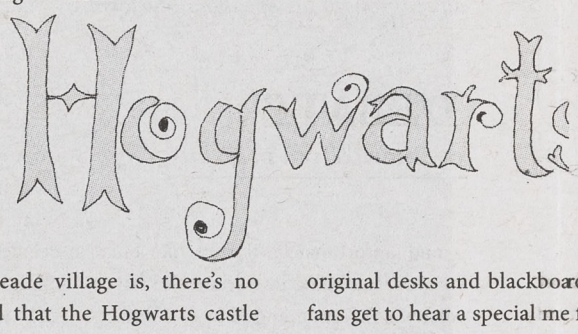
He succeeded.

From chocolate frogs to never-melting ice crean Honeydukes offerings serve as a reminder that in th land, magic can be consumed in every manner imagi able.



With a storefront directly to the left of Honeydukes, but no internal separation from the candy shop, the infamous Zonko's reverberates with retro-themed toy displays and pops, whizzes and whirrs that sporadically surprise guests from the shelves.

In the books and films, the Weasley twins channel their creative energy into projects such as Extendable Ears and Puking Pastilles that have been realized for parkgoers. Throughout the course of the morning, Gilmore repeatedly mentioned that the land is not based in technology, but rather analog products and enchanted items. The variety of wind-up robots, stuffed Pygmy Puffs and inexplicable bursts of air behind fringed curtains maintain the analog atmosphere flawlessly.



As beautiful as Hogsmeade village is, there's no question in anyone's mind that the Hogwarts castle is the end-all be-all icon of the Wizarding World. Walking up to the property from the front of the land, guests can see the Weasley's baby-blue Ford Anglia crashed at the base of the Whomping Willow that rests to the left of the castle.

Visitors are welcomed into the castle itself and led past the Mirror of Erised, through the herbology department's outdoor mandrake enclosure and into the Defense Against the Dark Arts classroom that houses original desks and blackboarom the film fans get to hear a special me from Headbus Dumbledore as they areinto his priv

Harry, Ron, Hermione (er, the Fat countless moving portraits aake guest a throughout the castle tour, wloubles as th signature ride Harry Potter ae Forbidden

The dark corridors, heavy walls, high c winding paths completely re guests from Southern California settinghe park an them in Gilmore's world of wraft and wiz

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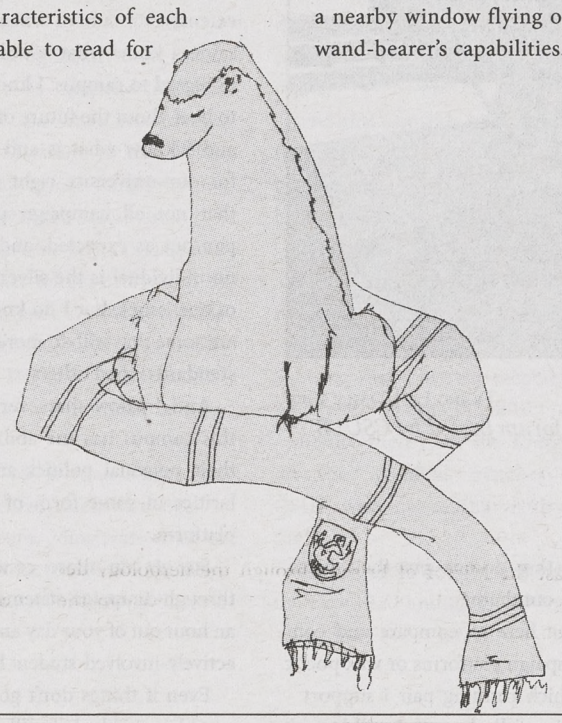
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Ollivander's

One of the most important item in a witch or wizard's life is a proper, personally chosen wand. At Ollivander's, aspiring magic-doers (not Muggle, wannabe illusionist "magicians") can not only peruse floor-to-ceiling walls of handcrafted wands, but also have the chance to go through a proper ceremony with Ollivander himself to see which wand chooses which guest.

There are wand options designed after more than 30 characters from the book, as well as non-specific wands in varying combinations of base wood and internal cores. Descriptions of the characteristics of each variety are available to read for guests who want to choose a wand of their own. Gilmore opted to take the wand of Sirius Black, his favorite of the characters.

Throughout the land, small silver icons with a spell name and motion can be found inlaid in the cobblestones outside storefronts. If a guest purchases the right type of interactive wand, they may use it to perform a spell (words and motion required), to cause a physical change in the storefront closest to the icon. Executing "Alohamora," the unlocking spell, will send the drawers of a cabinet in a nearby window flying open, validating the wand-bearer's capabilities.



The Three Broomsticks

Although Hogwarts students get treated to meals prepared courtesy of house elves, not all food magically appears on silver platters in the Wizarding World. The Three Broomsticks and Hog's Head Pub are central to Harry's Hogsmeade experience.

Guests get to experience the exact same Gothic-inspired tavern and pub as the Golden Trio and find refuge from the hustle and bustle of things outside.

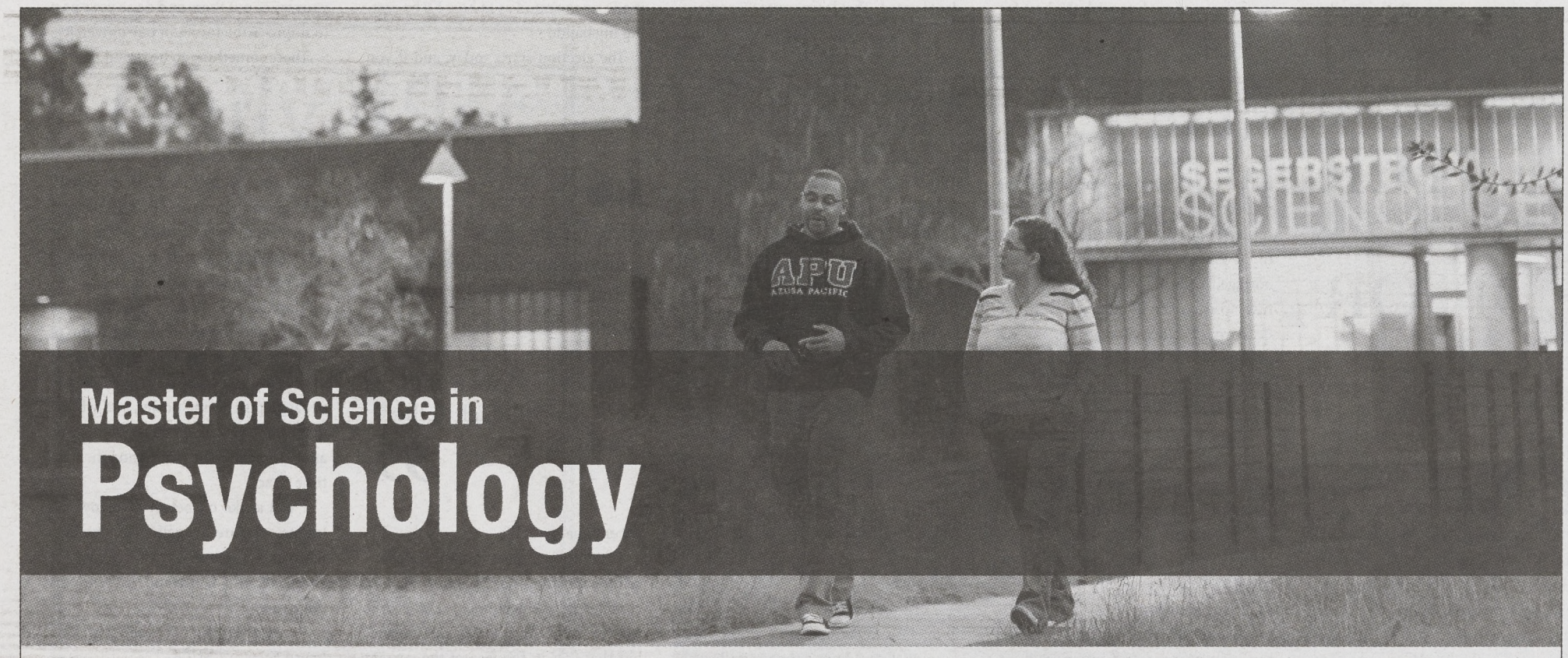
Sure, the traditional English menu and hand-crafted beers named after canon ales are exciting, but the true value of the building comes from the sunlight that drifts in through the lofty windows, spreading over wooden tables and mismatched piles of luggage belonging to the witches and wizards staying in the lofts above the restaurant.

Visually, the Three Broomsticks is nothing less than stunning. In no way could a guest be surprised by a sweet-smelling vapor rising from the cauldron in the center of the room or by a table of wizards discussing the latest controversy at the Ministry of Magic in a booth at the back of the pub. The building fully encapsulates the medieval traditions honored by the wizarding community.

If I had the chance, I would have spent the next several hours re-exploring the interior of the shops, trying on robes and sweaters in my house colors of green and silver, sipping on pumpkin juice at the bar top of the Hog's Head and soaking in every detail from the wood in the highest rafters to the distressed wood making up window sills. I've been to the Wizarding World in Orlando and gone through the excitement of seeing my first real wand and ordering my first glass of Butterbeer. I've gone through a sorting process and been placed into the ranks of some of the most cunning wizards in history. I've loved JK Rowling's world since I opened my mom's copy of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" at age seven. And, still, I felt myself falling in love with the magic of the park like it was my very first time.

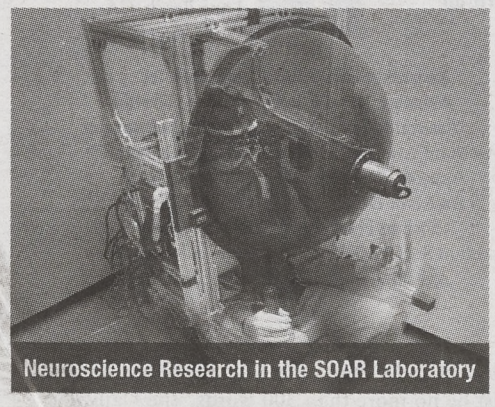
Aside from these landmarks, visitors to the park will be able to explore the owlery and post office, clothing shops, a train car on the Hogwarts Express and Universal Studios Hollywood's first outdoor roller coaster, the Flight of the Hippogriff. The Wizarding World of Harry Potter will officially open to the public on April 7, 2016 with a castle lighting ceremony. Cal State Long Beach students can purchase discount tickets for the park, with a CSULB email address, at ushtix.com/csulb.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MIRANDA ANDRADE-CEJA



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The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the employment rate in the research and data analytics field to increase by 25 percent over the next five years, and top companies such as Google, Apple, and Microsoft are increasingly employing individuals with sophisticated skills in this area. Azusa Pacific's Master of Science in Psychology program, slated to begin in fall 2016, prepares men and women for this growing field and is now accepting applications.


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Me, myself and ASI

We should be giving just as much, if not more, attention to the ASI elections as the presidential one.

By Micayla Vermeeren
Opinions Editor



Trang Le | Daily 49er
Candidates for the upcoming 2016 ASI elections participate in an Executive Candidate's forum hosted by CSULB student media last Thursday in front of the Speaker's Platform.

Students have a lot going on.

Between juggling classes, keeping up with relationships, managing work schedules, maintaining hobbies and finding time to get an adequate amount of sleep, it can be hard for us all to find energy to spare.

But, some things just deserve the effort of finding and utilizing whatever energy is left over at the end of the day. This week's Associated Students Inc. election undeniably falls under the "effort-deserving" umbrella.

I'm sure I'm not alone in feeling like elections have progressively taken over my newspapers, social media platforms and casual conversations. On campus, especially, I feel like everyone is pushing our community to #FeelTheBern or Make America Great Again. In such an important national election year, I get the lack of desire to invest time and personal energy in another, smaller election like ASI's.

Unless you're graduating at the end of this semester, though, the results of this election will be directly affecting the remainder of your Cal State Long Beach experience. And if you are moving on to the big, bad world of post-college life, I would hope you still respect our campus enough to wish the best for all the future 49ers that will be around in the next few years.

No, the results of this election won't be bringing buildings to the ground or replacing our sidewalks with people-moving conveyor belts, but there will be some very real changes. In last year's election, only 8.4 percent of students voted. That leaves over 90 percent – roughly 30,000 students – keeping quiet. Do you want to be part of that majority that doesn't put their voice, and vote, out there?

I'm not here to compare and contrast campaign platforms or wax poetic about which running pair I support – if I'm being fully honest, I still haven't made up my mind as to how I'll be casting my ballot.

The election starts today, and if you haven't been on top of things it would be easy to think you've missed the boat and can't do anything for it anymore. While you can start casting your vote via links being emailed out now, the online polls will stay open until midnight on Wednesday. It's not a lot of time to work with, but it is enough to get a basic understanding of what is being promised by campaigns and figure out how you feel about hot topics being addressed.

Even though I haven't put a terribly extensive amount of time into doing the same, I know what issues matter to be in regard to campus. I know what I like to hear about the future of our campus, and I know what is and isn't realistic for our university right now. I know that not all campaign promises will pan out as expected, and I know that no individual is the silver bullet for all of our issues, but I do know that there are some that will do more good (by my standards) than others.

And I know that every student on this campus has the ability to look at their personal politics and find similarities in some form of a candidate's platform.

So, get on those computers. Skim through campaign statements. Take half an hour out of your day and put on your actively-involved-student hat. Vote.

Even if things don't go the way you would have liked, you'll still have put your voice out there and done your part to improve the future of our university.

That's something to be proud of.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

After several months of deliberation and soul-searching, I have decided to go on strike along with my colleagues at Cal State Long Beach and numerous faculty members at California State University campuses throughout the state.

This was certainly not an easy decision for me because I am deeply committed to teaching and mentoring the students I work with, and I am concerned about how this action will affect them. I am also terribly dismayed and outraged regarding the chancellor's refusal to negotiate a settlement with the California Faculty Association, and his position on the issue is a shameful commentary on his lack of respect for CSU faculty, staff and students.

I have been a part-time lecturer on the music faculty for 21 years, and my history as a teacher and concert artist extends to 50 years of experience. I was the first woman in my family to go to college, and I was fortunate enough to have scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate study. My family made numerous sacrifices so that I could have a world-class education, and my experience is definitely similar to what my students are going through at this moment.

The current labor crisis is not only about the chancellor's 2 percent offer; it is also about the quality of education at CSU campuses. Approximately 50 percent of all classes are taught by part-time/adjunct faculty who are forced to take additional jobs in order to support themselves and their families, and I was shocked to listen to heartbreaking stories during the Nov. 17, 2015 demonstrations about many part-time faculty going to food banks and using food stamps because they were unable to make ends meet on meager salaries.

I also have a second job as organist and choir director, and without that income, I could not survive and have a decent quality of life.

> "My family made numerous sacrifices so that I could have a world-class education, and my experience is definitely similar to what my students are going through at this moment."

In addition, I must say that the chancellor's position is hypocritical and completely disingenuous. He claims that we must "live within our means", but that flies in the face of the current situation and the gross inequality of wealth in the nation. CSU executives have given themselves 10 to 15 percent raises over several years while part-time faculty and staff are continually underpaid and overworked.

The CFA 5 percent proposal is a modest step toward repairing some of the horrific damage that has occurred over many years of wage stagnation and negative purchasing power, and while I don't want to strike, I strongly feel that after 21 years, I've seen enough… it's time to act.

I will strike on behalf of many colleagues who are struggling, for students who want a better way of life, and for everyone who will stand and support our cause.

–Althea Waites, Lecturer for Keyboard Faculty, CSULB

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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

49ers continue to fall

The Matadors earn their first win against the 49ers since 2012 after a five-set victory Saturday night.

BY KAYCE CONTATORE
Contributing Writer

The No. 2 Long Beach State men's volleyball split its weekend matches against No. 11 Cal State Northridge, sweeping the Matadors in the Walter Pyramid Friday before falling in five sets on Saturday at the Matadome.

The 49ers lost the top ranking and fell to No. 2 after falling in five sets to Ohio State on March 12. The loss to the Matadors is the first for LBSU to a team outside of the top five American Volleyball Coaches Association ranking this season.

LBSU head coach Alan Knipe said that the past three weeks had been a grind for his team, going from coast to coast with their matches before settling back inside the Pyramid. After the loss to the Buckeyes, the team was ready to get back in the gym to practice the next day.

"It's never really that hard to motivate a team to practice after a tough loss," Knipe said. "The challenge is to get a team to practice that hard after a win, and I'm not saying we haven't done it well, but if there's a magic that's what you're looking for."

While the 49ers had four players hit double digits in the five-set loss to the Matadors, the team hit at .275 for the night.

Freshman outside hitter Kyle Ensing topped the team with 14 kills with fellow classmate TJ DeFalco adding 12 of his own. Senior middle blocker Taylor Gregory finished the night with 10 kills and junior middle blocker Bryce Yould totaled 11 kills.

The Matadors hit at .305 in the win Saturday night, just the second team to hit above .300 against LBSU.

Before their loss, the 49ers kicked off the weekend matches against CSUN with a sweeping victory Friday night.

LBSU dominated the first set, taking the early lead and going up by double digits before putting the match away 25-8 after consecutive aces from senior middle blocker Taylor Gregory.

The Matadors changed around their lineup in the second set, giving new players a chance on the court and making it a challenge for the 49ers. LBSU head coach Alan Knipe said his team handled the situation well by not being overwhelmed by the new line up.

"What I liked the most was the ability of the guys to slow it all down and talk their way through it and not panic," Knipe said.

It was a back-and-forth second set with 19 score ties before freshman outside hitter TJ DeFalco put the match away at 31-29. CSUN head coach Jeff Campbell said that his team's attacking was off, but that it all goes back to how well the team passes and sets the ball before it gets to the hitter.

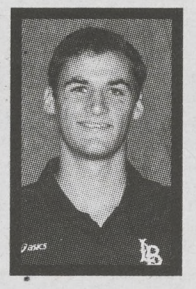
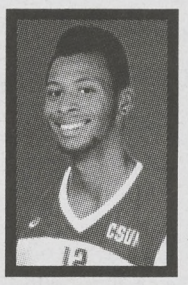
"We were right there with them, so we feel pretty good about being there; now we gotta close them out," Campbell said.

Sophomore outside hitter Bjarne Huus earned back-to-back kills, which gave the 49ers match point and the win in the third set. Huus said his team did a great job putting themselves in good situations to win the match, but still need to work on their game from the serving line.

The 49ers return home Wednesday to face UC Santa Barbara inside the Walter Pyramid at 7 p.m.

SERIES LEADERS

LBSU vs. CSUN

	T.J. DeFalco	Arvis Greene
		
	27 Kills	**31 Kills**
	15 Digs	**9 Digs**
	.178 Hit%	**.197 Hit%**

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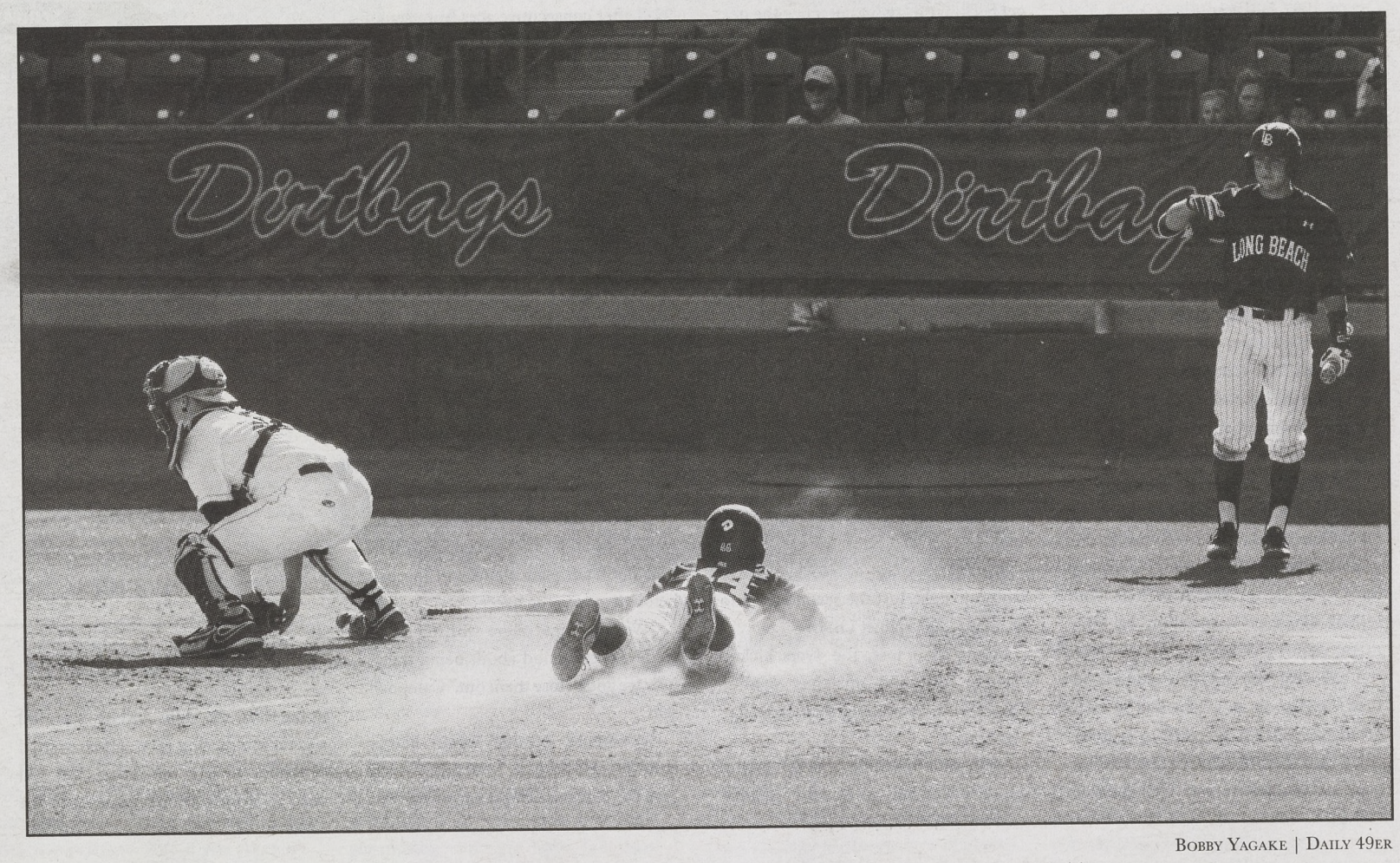
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BASEBALL

Dirtbags run over Columbia

The Dirtbags got a lift from the return of first baseman Daniel Jackson from injury to pick up their fifth consecutive series win.

By Matt Simon
Staff Writer



Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er

LBSU sophomore Luke Rasmussen slides home in the 49ers' 7-2 win over Columbia University on Saturday at Blair Field.

The Long Beach State baseball team saw the return of an injured player as it took yet another series, winning three of four games against Columbia University Thursday through Sunday at Blair Field.

After months of rehabbing a shoulder injury, Dirtbags first baseman Daniel Jackson was on the field Saturday for his first start of the season after missing 18 games and made an immediate impact.

The junior went 1-for-2 with two RBIs, including the go-ahead run for the Dirtbags' 7-2 win in the third game of the series. Jackson admitted he was nervous, but the flow of the game got rid of any doubts.

"It was all adrenaline," Jackson said. "There was nerves, but I have been working hard to come back and my coaches and trainers helped me all the way. It was amazing to contribute and help the team."

The Dirtbags went down 2-0 in the first inning, but came back to win scoring seven unanswered.

"I thought it was a good game," head coach Troy Buckley said. "They came out and punched us in the mouth and we didn't do much in that first inning. Then Tanner [Brown] settled down to give us seven quality innings with really nothing more than that first inning."

Saturday's win clinched LBSU's fifth straight series. However, the Dirtbags failed to finish off the sweep on Sunday, losing 8-6 at Blair Field.

Despite the loss, Jackson continued hitting well in the middle of the Dirtbags' lineup, drilling a 2-run home run over the left field wall to bring the Dirtbags within two.

"[I didn't think it was gone] I thought I popped the ball up a little bit," Jackson said of his home run. "I yelled at it, the wind helped it."

Jackson's home run was too little too late for the Dirtbags after they allowed five runs in the first three innings. Columbia's Will Savage was the difference, going 5 for 6 and scoring three runs.

The Dirtbags won Thursday's game 4-1 and Friday's game 8-3.

With LBSU's series win, Buckley said he is getting closer to finding out who will be part of his 27-man roster when conference play begins.

"We got some guys trying to determine their roles," Buckley said. "I think it's getting there. We're not cemented yet, but we're certainly getting there."

While the lineup isn't solidified, the Dirtbag pitchers continued their dominance in the first three games. LBSU allowed just six runs across all three games on 13 combined hits. Along with the pitching, the offense has started to figure things out after scoring 26 runs in the last four games.

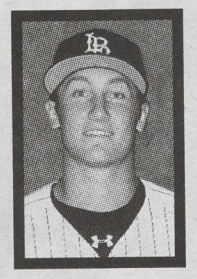
"I like where we're going with it," Buckley said. "It's all about production, whether it's [Luke] Rasmussen, or [Garrett] Nelson, it's all about finding production in the middle of the order."

The Dirtbags will start Big West Conference play Thursday at 6 p.m. when they travel to Cal State Fullerton for a weekend series.

During Saturday's game, a man collapsed in the stands and was taken to the hospital by paramedics. Witnesses said the man suffered a seizure, but reports are unconfirmed. The game went on uninterrupted.

Series Leaders

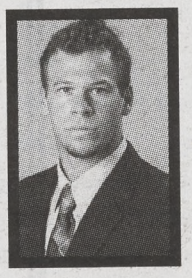
LBSU vs. Columbia



5 Hits

4 RBIs

Stolen Base



5 Hits

3 RBIs

Triple

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sitting Ducks

The 49ers' season is over after losing in the first round of the WNIT for the second straight year.

By Grester Celis-Acosta
Staff Writer

The Long Beach State women's basketball team saw its season come to an end on Thursday, losing in the first round of the WNIT to Oregon, 84-76.

The Ducks had five players score double digits, with senior guard Lexi Petersen leading the way with 22 points.

As for the 49ers, junior guard Raven Benton led the team in scoring with 22 points while junior guard Anna Kim and sophomore guard Gigi Hascheff added 12 points.

LBSU shot the ball well, shooting 45.2 percent from the field and 32 percent from long distance. However, the Ducks shot 50.9 percent from the field and 46.7 percent from three-point land. They went 14-30 from three with Petersen contributing to six of those triples.

The 49ers started the first quarter by grabbing an early lead and holding on to it. LBSU led after one by a score of 25-19.

The lead was short lived, as the Ducks embarked on a 20-6 run over the course of five minutes in the second quarter to take a 48-36 lead at halftime.

In the third, the 49ers brought down the deficit to three at 56-53. Oregon would eventually pull away, and by the fourth quarter, the Ducks led by as many as 19 points.

LBSU fought back to end the game with an 11-0 run, but it was not enough.

The 49ers finished the season with 24-9 overall record, which marks the most wins since the 1990-1991 season. LBSU will see almost all of its players return next season with exception of senior Chantel Dooley.

O 84-76 LB

TOP PERFORMERS

Guard
Lexi Petersen



22 Points

6-12 FGM

6-10 3PM

Guard
Raven Benton

22 Points

7-13 FGM

8 Rebounds

